



Marc Elrich, County Executive  
Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrator Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director  
Kraig Walsleben, UCAB Chair

**March 22, 2019**

## **Business Services Are Now Available Upcounty!**

*(see dates & locations listed)*

**Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center  
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown**

County Executive Marc Elrich kicked off enhanced business services with workshops in the Upcounty Regional Services Center this week. The first sessions focused on Strategic Planning and Marketing for small businesses. Workshops will continue at the Upcounty location as part of this important initiative.

### ***Upcoming workshops:***

#### **Developing a Loan Package for a Lender**

March 28 11:00am – 1:00pm

Upcounty Regional Services Center, Meeting Room B  
12900 Middlebrook Rd, Germantown

#### **How to Design and Manage a Business Website**

April 2 10:00am – 12:00noon

Upcounty Regional Services Center, Meeting Room B  
12900 Middlebrook Rd, Germantown

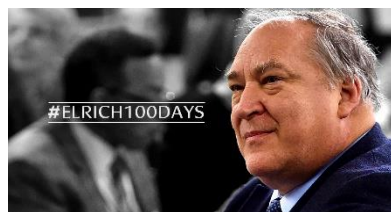
#### **Nuts & Bolts of Starting a Business**

April 9 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Germantown Library  
19840 Century Blvd, Germantown

If questions, contact Judy Stephenson at 240-777-2012 or [judith.stephenson@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:judith.stephenson@montgomerycountymd.gov).

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## **First 100 Days**

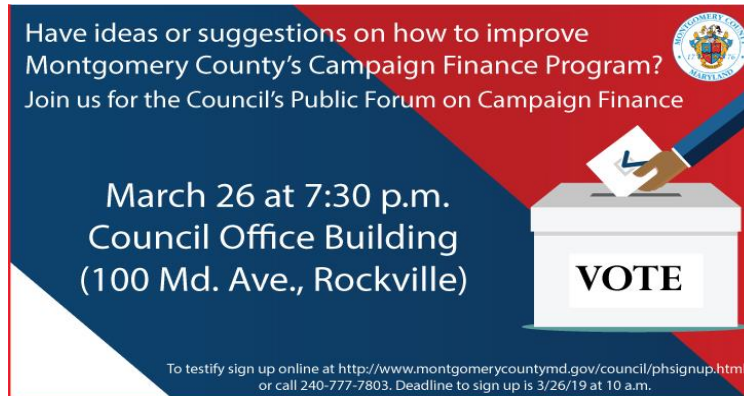
Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich is focused on his vision for a more equitable and inclusive Montgomery County as he marks his first 100 days in office this week. More details, to include a list of his administration's accomplishments can be seen in the [release](#). [Watch YouTube Video](#)

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## Montgomery County Police Department is **HIRING!**

The application process for the position of Police Officer Candidate will be open from March 20, 2019, through March 28, 2019. Apply now at <http://www.joinmcp.com> !

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Sign up to testify at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/phsignup.html> or call 240-777-7803

*The deadline for signing up is 10:00am on March 26!*

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## Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) urges Homeowners and Renters to apply for the Maryland Tax Credit Programs

The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation ("SDAT") just released the 2019 Homeowners and Renters Tax Credit applications! [Housing Initiative Partnership](#) ("HIP") is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, and urges Maryland renters and homeowners to work with one of our housing counselors to determine their eligibility for these little-known credits. Qualified renters will receive up to \$1,000 a year in a lump sum payment, and qualified homeowners will receive a reduction in their annual property tax bill. In addition, many counties and municipalities now offer an automatic supplemental credit to those who qualify for the state credit!

The [Renter's Tax Credit](#) is available to low-income families, people age 60 or older, and people with a disability. This credit is issued to qualified renters in the form of a direct check payment, and can be as much as \$1,000 a year. In 2018, a total of 7,351 eligible renters received an average of \$424 in tax relief.

The [Homeowners Tax Credit](#) is available to homeowners with a gross income of under \$60,000. Homeowners that qualify will receive a credit on their property tax bill that caps their property taxes based on the household income. Applications received and approved before May 1 will result in a credit on the homeowner's July tax bill.

Counseling staff from the Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) are ready to assist Marylanders complete the application at NO COST. HIP counselors will help renters and homeowners determine eligibility, gather appropriate documentation, complete the necessary paperwork, and follow up with SDAT to ensure that the application is received and processed. The final deadline for filing is September 1, 2019, but HIP recommends filing as soon as possible to get the credit earlier.

Contact HIP at 301-699-5946, [ccastro@hiphomes.org](mailto:ccastro@hiphomes.org)

**Don't leave money on the table – call HIP today and take the credit!**

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## **Metro announces four-week break from weekend track work during Cherry Blossom season**

Metro is planning to welcome area residents and visitors traveling during the busy Cherry Blossom season with a four-week suspension of almost all weekend track work beginning Saturday, March 23. Many of Metro's highest ridership days occur during Cherry Blossom season when weekend ridership can nearly double.

During the four-week period, through Sunday, April 14, trains on all Metrorail lines will run at regularly scheduled intervals, departing end-of-line stations every 12 minutes on Saturdays and every 15 minutes on Sundays. At stations served by multiple lines (e.g. Downtown DC), trains will arrive every 4-7 minutes. On the Red Line, trains will run as frequently as every 6 minutes between Shady Grove and Silver Spring during daytime hours.

For more details, visit <https://www.wmata.com/about/news/2019-Cherry-Blossom-Season.cfm>

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## **Pedestrian, Bicycle & Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting**

**March 28 7:00pm-9:30pm**

**Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center (Meeting Room A)  
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown**

The Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC) is a group of citizens, elected officials, and government representatives focused on pedestrian and bicycle safety issues in Montgomery County. The meeting dates for the PBTSAC have now been changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month and meetings will be held around the county.

If you have any questions or concerns, please send an email to the Committee through [this link](#). If you would like additional information about these meetings, please e-mail [mcdot.outreach@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:mcdot.outreach@montgomerycountymd.gov).

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## **April Workshops to be Held on Proposed Alternatives for I-495 and I-270**

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the State Highway Administration (SHA) will be taking the next steps in studying proposed alternatives for I-495 and I-270 by holding a total of six public workshops in Montgomery and Prince George's County in April. Three of the workshops—where residents can learn more about the alternatives and make comments to planners—will be held in Montgomery County. They will be in [Bethesda on Saturday, April 13](#); in [Silver Spring on Wednesday, April 24](#); and in [Rockville on Thursday, April 25](#). To learn more, go to [495-270-p3.com](https://495-270-p3.com).

***This week, the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board successfully advocated for a workshop in the Upcounty region!***

***Details coming soon!***

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## Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Conference

Sunday, April 7 12:30am-5:00pm  
Richard Montgomery High School

Did you know that 1 in 3 teens is a victim of dating abuse in some form? You and your teen can register for this free conference to learn more about the signs of dating violence, how to help a friend, and resources in our county. Open to students in grades 6-12, parents, educators, and youth service providers. Presentations offered in Spanish and English. Pizza, giveaways, music and more. Teens earn SSL hours for attending.

To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/choose-respect-2019-10th-annual-healthy-teen-dating-conference-tickets-54944767278>. For more information contact Smita Varia at [Smita.Varia@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Smita.Varia@montgomerycountymd.gov).

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### Join the 2020 Census Team!



The United States Census Bureau is recruiting staff for Census 2020. The Census Bureau will be hiring approximately 600 Census Takers in Montgomery County. Apply Now by visiting [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs). for more information or help applying call 1-855-JOB-2020 or contact [Daniel McCall](#), the recruiting agent for Montgomery County.

They are hiring for a variety of temporary jobs, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff. To be eligible, you must be at least 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number, and be a U.S. citizen.

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**5<sup>th</sup> Annual GreenFest**  
Sunday, April 28  
Brookside Garden  
Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton

***“Where the County Comes Together, Learns Together and Takes Action Together!”***

We are excited to announce the return of GreenFest with more of what you love—exhibitors, workshops, kids' activities, and entertainment—but this time in one of the County's best natural treasures.

- Enjoy live musicians, drummers and dancers
- Kids tree climbing
- More than 80 vendors and exhibitors
- Electric vehicle and car show
- Food trucks
- Free parking and shuttle service between Glenmont Metro Station and Brookside Gardens
- And more!

Walk the trails, chill out on the grass, and explore the fabulous Visitor and Nature Centers, all while discovering how you can go green at home and in the community. GreenFest is the County's premier environmental festival that brings together County residents and businesses who want to build a greener, healthier community, both locally and globally. GreenFest is led by a coalition of government and nonprofit partners who work together to connect County residents with resources for environmental solutions to build a healthier planet and greener environment.

To learn more, visit the [GreenFest](#) website for more information.

*(No Pets or Outside Food or Drinks Allowed. Service animals are welcomed.)*

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## **Participate in “Give and Ride” and Help Feed the Area’s Neediest Families Sunday, April 28 through Saturday, May 4**

Ride On bus passengers can help needy families and ride free by donating canned or nonperishable food during our 32nd annual “Give and Ride” food drive. Ride On will collect donations from Sunday, April 28 through Saturday, May 4.

Food collection bags will be placed near the fare boxes on all Ride On buses. In addition to non-perishable food, items for children, such as healthy items, disposable diapers, formula, baby or toddler food and juice are especially needed. View a list of the most desirable foods [online](#). Appropriate foods may be used by Manna Food Center for their “Smart Sack” program for kids, which provides weekend food for 2,850 needy, elementary school students. Donated items must be in unbreakable containers only.

Food collected through the drive goes to the Manna Food Center, which feeds thousands of hungry families a month. Manna continues to see a steady increase in the number of families needing assistance. Several years ago, the drive was shifted to the spring to help Manna stock its shelves at a time when their food supplies run low.

Even if you don’t use Ride On, you can still donate items. Give your donations to any Ride On bus operator or drop off donations directly to [Manna Foods](#), 9311 Gaither Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

For information on Ride On, call 311 or TDD/TTY 301-251-4850, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or visit the [MCDOT website](#).

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## **MCDOT Completes Installation of Free WiFi on Entire Ride On Bus Fleet**

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) announces the arrival of free WiFi for customers on all Ride On buses. While Ride On extRa buses and all buses acquired since 2017 already had WiFi installed, new cellular technology has been used to retrofit the remaining buses in Ride On’s fleet of 365 vehicles. Riders simply check available networks and connect to GetOnTheBus for free WIFI during their ride. Check Ride On routes and schedules [online](#).

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## **Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) / State Highway Administration Announces Planned Lane Closure Update for Montgomery County for the Period Starting March 22**

The MDOT SHA District 3 Office announces the following lane closures planned for Montgomery County for the period starting March 22. These closures relate to Access/Utility/Sidewalk/Special Event Permits.

*(Additional lane closure times and hours may be necessary to expedite all phases of work to keep all projects on schedule; all work performed weather permitting. Real-time traffic information available at [www.md511.org](http://www.md511.org) or 1-855-466-3511.)*

• **Purple Line related utility work**-for information on construction activities, schedules and other updates, please visit [www.purplelinemd.com/construction](http://www.purplelinemd.com/construction). For immediate construction concerns, please email us at [outreach@pltlc.com](mailto:outreach@pltlc.com) or call the construction hotline at 240-424-5325.

• **Washington Gas asphalt work** at various locations in Montgomery County through late spring 2019. **(Contact: Kevin Bates, 571-327-6656) (UP) (3234)**



- I-270 from ramp 5 I 270 southbound to Ramp 4 I 270 northbound. **Aerial duct overlash.** Northbound and southbound full lane closures 12 a.m. to 12:20 a.m. Sundays through spring 2019. **(Contact: Derek Thomas, 443-277-2589) (MO-0096-17) (UP)**
- I-270 at MD 28. **Cable crossing for a utility project.** Northbound and southbound 15-minute full lane closures Mondays starting at 12 a.m. Maryland State Police will be on site to assist. **(Contact: Derek Thomas, 443-277-2598) (UP)**
- I-270 at MD 28(Montgomery Avenue) from southbound Ramp 5 to Northbound Ramp 4. **Aerial duct overlash.** 20-minute full lane closures starting at 12 a.m. Monday through Friday through late spring 2019. **(Contact: Derek Thomas, 443-277-2589) (UP) (MO-0096-18)**
- MD 28 (Key West Avenue) at Research Boulevard and Siesta Key Way. **Mill and overlay work** through late spring 2019. Southbound double lane closures, overnight, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday. **(Contact: Brad Richenberg 703-496-8869) (AP) (MO05217)**
- MD 355 (North Frederick Road) **project related utility work at various locations along entire roadway.** Northbound and southbound single lane closures, overnight, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday through late spring 2019. **(Contact: Jose Sandoval, 301-599-1008) (UR4MO536)**
- MD 355 (Rockville Pike) at Rosemont Drive. **Waterline replacement** through late spring 2019. Northbound left and center lane closures and southbound left turn lane closures (only close two lanes in one direction at a time), overnight, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday. **(Contact: Carlos Batista 703-929-2114) (UP) (MO0004-17)**
- MD 355(Frederick Avenue) at Rosemont Drive. **Water line replacement.** Southbound single lane closures, overnight, 9 pm to 5 am Sunday through Thursday through late spring 2019. **(Contact: Carlos Batista, 703-929-2114) (UP) (MO-0004-17)**
- MD 355 (Frederick Road) at Brink Road. **Private/commercial intersection reconstruction project.** Intermittent single lane closures on both roads with a flagging operation, weekdays, Monday through Friday, 9 p.m. to 3 p.m. through late spring 2019. **(Contact: Mark Levendusky, Beazer Homes, 301-356-7909, mark.levendusky@beazer.com) (09 AP MO 002 17)**
- MD 355 (Frederick Road) from Central Avenue to Peony Drive. **Sanitary sewer rehabilitation.** Northbound and southbound double lane closures, overnight, Sunday through Thursday 9 pm to 5 am through late spring 2019. **(Contact: Jacob Pierce, 301-325-0678) (UP) (MO-1034-15)**
- MD 190 (River Road) from Butler Road to Greystone Street. **Installation of electrical cable and Harrison Station upgrade.** Northbound and southbound multi lane closures during the daytime on weekdays and weekends through late spring 2019. **(Contact: Tami Watkins, 202-872-3590)**

*A full listing for Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties can be found at  
[https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OC/D3\\_LANE\\_CLOSURES.pdf](https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OC/D3_LANE_CLOSURES.pdf)*

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**For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit:** <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

*For other news and meeting agendas, visit:*

**County Council** <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council>

**Planning Board** [http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/departments/news\\_releases](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/departments/news_releases)

**Also check out the latest from:**

Department of Public Libraries <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

Department of Recreation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec>

Department of Transportation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html>

Department of Environmental Protection <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep>

Department of Permitting Services <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps>

Montgomery County Volunteer Center <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>

Office of Community Partnerships <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships>

Commission for Women <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw>

Parks Department <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/>

Planning Department <http://montgomeryplanning.org/>

Department of Health and Human Services [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs)